(c) if not, by when the next missile is taking off the ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme, sanctioned by the Government in 1983, envisages development of four Missiles namely PRITHVI, THRISHUL, AKASH and NAG and re-entry technology demonstrator AGNI. Phase of user trials of PRITHVI have been completed. Subsequent activities are being progressed. With three test flights of the technology demonstrator, AGNI project has been succefully completed. The other missiles are in advanced stage of development.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Defence cooperation with Vietnam

7262. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Vietnam, a defence pact was also signed to ensure defence cooperation between India and Vietnamese defence organisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) During the visit of the Prime Minister to Vietnam in September, 1994, an agreement pertaining to defence cooperation was signed with Vietnam. The agreement, which envisages the promotion of bilateral defence relations between the two countries, is in line with Government's policy of establishing and enhancing cooperation in the defence sector, with various friendly countries, including Vietnam. This policy is translated into a measured implementation of various steps involving interaction between two sides.

Scud Missiles with Pakistan

7263. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the 'Pioneer' of October 5, 1994, captioned "Pak may have hundreds of scud missiles" quoting the Director of the Institute of Defence Studies, New Delhi, to the effect that hundreds of scud missiles from the Afgan war surpluses have had their way into Pakistan, making a mockery of the concern expressed by Missile Technology Control Regime; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) and (b) Government is aware of the news-item published in the Pioneer of 5.10.1994. However, there is no authentic information with the Government to suggest that scud missiles left by the Russians in Afghanistan have found their way into Pakistan. It is reported that Pakistan has evinced interest in scud missiles from some foreign sources.

Unprovoked Firing by Pakistani troops

7264. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani troops are resorting to unprovoked firing through heavy artillery and rockets on Indian troops on the Indo-Pak border in Jammu and Kashmir in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof during the last one year with details of losses suffered by Indian troops; and